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ABSTRACT

This collection of essays focuses on positive aspects of the college professor's career. The first chapter, "(Mis)Understanding Academic Work," is aimed at critics who feel that professors do not work very long or hard and should therefore teach more undergraduates to relieve state budgets. Chapter 2, "Scholarship Reconsidered," analyzes changes in scholarship since 1963. Chapter 3, "Twenty-Five Reasons To Publish," attacks the false dichotomy between teaching and research. Chapter 4, "Encountering the Other," focuses on the need for education in "otherness." Chapter 5, "What Makes a University Great?," suggests criteria for assessing academic excellence, while Chapter 6, "Confessions of a Bibliolater," probes the author's love affair with books. Chapter 7, "The Making of a Scholar-Athlete," considers the choices necessary to cultivate both talents to their fullest. Chapter 8, "Between Disciplines," explains the contribution of interdisciplinary ethnohistory in light of international trends in history and the social sciences. Chapter 9, "Extracurriculum," examines the teaching role of professors outside of the classroom. Chapter 10, "College Towns," describes the advantages (and some disadvantages) of quintessential college towns. Chapter 11, "Academic Vacations," recounts one family's professorially driven vacations. The concluding chapter argues against a "crisis" in higher education. (Individual chapters contain references.) (DB)

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